IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 813 OF 2007

M/s.Pharma Base India Pvt.Ltd. ...Petitioner
V/s.
State of Maharashtra & Ors. ...Respondents

Mr.Rahul Oak for the Petitioner.
Ms.A.P. Purav for Respondent No.3.
Ms.Mamta Sadh, AGP for Respondent Nos.1, 2 and 4.

CORAM : V.M. KANADE, J.

DATED : APRIL 23, 2007

P.C. :-

1. Heard the learned Counsel for the petitioner and the learned Counsel for the respondents.

2. The petitioner is challenging the order passed by the Controlling Authority under the provisions of Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, whereby the Controlling Authority has directed the petitioner to pay an amount of Rs.13,75,000/-. Against this order, the petitioner has preferred an appeal before the Appellate Authority under the Payment of Gratuity Act. A Show Cause Notice was issued to the petitioner dated 12th January, 2007 by the Naib Tahsildar, Recovery of Government Dues, Mumbai Suburban District, asking him to pay that amount. It is

further stated in the Show Cause Notice that 10% recovery charges have also to be payable by the petitioner amounting to Rs.1,37,500/-.

3. The learned Counsel for respondent no.3 makes a statement on instructions that the petitioner has already deposited an amount of Rs.13,75,000/- before the Appellate Authority.

4. In view of this, writ petition can be disposed of by giving a direction to the Appellate Authority to decide the appeal, as expeditiously as possible, in any case within a period of six months from today. Order accordingly.

5. Respondent Nos.1, 2 and 4 are directed not to take any further coercive steps during the pendency of appeal in view of the fact that the petitioner has deposited an amount of Rs.13,75,000/-.

6. Writ Petition is disposed of in the above terms.

(V.M. Kanade, J.)